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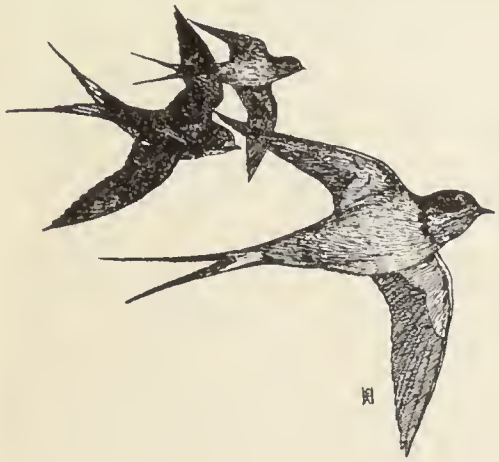
GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

the Gull

Volume 58 Berkeley, Calif. September 1976 Number 8

Wildlife Biologist to Speak at Meeting



Our first meeting will kick-off with a presentation by Kathy Osugi, a wildlife biologist at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Kathy will discuss the progress of the refuge which has been in existence for several years. This Society helped to change the refuge from an idea into a reality when it contributed funds some time ago.

Also at this program, a film entitled "Shall the Bay Live?" will be shown which discusses various aspects of this disturbing theme.

Come — and be made aware — of these important subjects. The fall meeting will be held at the First Unitarian Church, Franklin and Geary Streets in San Francisco. The date is Thursday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.

FALL BIRDING CLASSES IN BAY AREA

— Wednesday, September 8 at 7 p.m. Joe Morlan will begin an eight-week course in room 254 at the Marin Junior High School, Fillmore and Bay Streets in San Francisco. Field trips to complement the lectures will be held five Sunday mornings. Registration at first class. For further information, call the Galileo-Marina Community College Center at 885-0660.

— Monday, September 13 at 9 a.m. Joe Morlan will lead morning walks to observe birds. The first meeting will be held at the Fort Mason Art Center, Laguna Street and Marina Blvd. Registration at first class. Call the Galileo-Marina Community College Center at 885-0660 for more information.

— Tuesday, September 14 at 9:30 a.m. Aliee Hoch will teaeh field ornithology by visiting the Palo Alto Baylands, the Alameda shore and Coyote Hills Regional Park. The first elass will be held in Room 13, Blaeow Elementary School, 40404 Sundale Drive, Fremont. Registration at the Fremont Adult Sehool, 40775 Fremont Blvd. Room 8. Or at first elass. For more information, eall 657-9438.

— Tuesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. Joe Morlan will stress field identification of wild birds for beginning birders. For more information, call the Albany Adult Sehool at 526-6441.

— Thursday, September 16 at 8 a.m. Joe Morlan will lead birders in a series of morning walks to observe birds in their natural habitat. Contaet the Albany Adult Sehool at 526-6441 for more information.

— Saturday, September 18 at 8 a.m. Joe Morlan will teach an advanced class for those who have already taken either Intermediate Ornithology, Ornithology II or Advaneed Ornithology at Albany. It will be a series of field trips and will deal with rare birds and field problems. For more information, eall the Albany Adult Sehool at 526-6441.

— Tuesday, September 21 at 7 p.m. Susanne Luther will teach a eourse in beginning field ornithology at Piedmont Adult School. Field identification will be stressed. For more information, eall the Piedmont Adult Sehool at 653-9454.

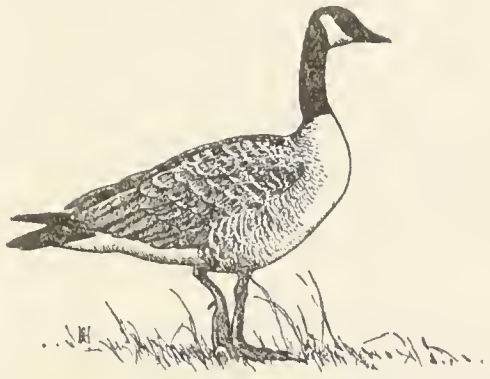
— Tuesday, September 28. Joe Morlan will teaeh field identification class sponsored by the Natural Sciences Guild of the Oakland Museum Assoeiation. Registration is limited to 20 persons. For more information, eall 273-3884.

SOCIETY TO SPONSOR CALIFORNIA CONDOR SYMPOSIUM

A symposium on the California Condor, sponsored by the National Audubon Soeiety, will be held October 23, 1976 from 10-4, at the Marin County Civie Center in San Rafael.

Registration for the symposium will be by mail only. Forms can be obtained from the National Audubon Society, George Whittell Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, California 94920. There is a $2.00 registration fee for the symposium.

Conservation



Mining In Condor Country?

Condor in the Los Padres National Forest may soon be forced to flee their home if the U.S. Gypsum Company is granted permission to mine there.

Secretary of the Interior Thomas Kleppe is expected in a few months to rule on the application by U.S. Gypsum to lease more than 2400 acres of the forest. The company wants to extract phosphates.

This mining, according to a government environmental study, would threaten the survival of condors presently using the area adjoining the proposed open mine and processing plant. A drinking pool, likely to be affected by the human activity, used by the condors is located less than two miles from the site. Also, new power lines would be needed to support the operation which is expected to continue for at least 50 years if approved.

You can express your opinion on the matter by writing to:

Hon. Thomas S. Kleppe
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Yosemite

Those of you who filled out the Yosemite workbook should have received, sometime in June or July, an update on the progress made by the Yosemite planning team.

To understand the workbook results given in the update, it is helpful to separate them into alternatives A,B,C, and D used in the worksheets. Some of the results are as follows:

- Private vehicles would be kept out of park . . . 32%
- Scheduled helicopter flights should not be flown over the park . . . 61%
- Number of campgrounds should:
  - be reduced . . . 30%
  - stay the same . . . 41%
  - be increased . . . 14%
- Conventions should not be held in the park . . . 53%
- Snowmobiles should not be allowed in the park . . . 62%
- Hang gliding should not be allowed in the park . . . 51%

Almost 21,000 worksheets were returned, with about eight and one-half

percent of these from out-of-state. The percentage of out-of-state responses supporting strong conservation options was above the average response.

Other information about the study: about 30% of the worksheets were from persons who had received a letter from the Yosemite Park and Curry Company who had urged them to send for workbooks.

The next opportunity for public input will be early next year when public meetings will be held to review a proposed general management plan. The planning process will be completed sometime in 1978.

—DAVID LITTLEJOHN, *Conservation Committee*

LATE JUNE AND JULY OBSERVATIONS

Although birding interest tends to fall off during the summer, several events of interest occurred this season. Good numbers of usually absent ducks and shorebirds summered locally (a few are mentioned below) as did a surprising number of vagrant warblers in the East Bay hills. No one knows how many of the late spring wanderers actually find suitable habitat and stay until the fall. But the fact that both Northern Parulas and American Redstarts have bred in the state attests to this phenomenum—and both species put in appearances this summer.

Coverage on Pt. Reyes also confirmed that the coast receives a late influx of eastern vagrants in late June, known previously from Farallon data. Those magic islands again were host to a late June onslaught, and though I have no official report, word is that they recorded a **Kentucky Warbler** (7th state record) and **Connecticut Warbler**— two of the most difficult warblers to find in the state due as much to their habits as their rarity. A variety of others including Magnolia and Tennessee, two not found during the period on the coast, were seen. The Pt. Reyes finds (by ranches) are detailed below.

The **Yellow-billed Loon,** first discovered in Berkeley in January, reappeared 17 July at the Emeryville marina (A&WG) and then redisappeared 25 July. The unfortunate individual, with a fishook embedded in its neck, was weak and may have died. There are only two previous summer records for California. **Northern Fulmars** stayed all summer, an unusual happening, with "lots" in Montercy Bay 25 July (TC). Probably the rarest bird of the season was a **Wood Stork** south of Big Sur, Monterey Co. 20 July to this writing (Mrs. Fleenor, JM *et al*). The only other recent record for Northern California were six at Woodland on 20 Aug., 1964; the next record goes back to August, 1931. A very few **Black Brant** summer locally; reports were three at Pigeon Pt. 15 June (DE, DR, WS, NK) and a more unusual bird at Lake Merced 3 July (NS).

Other rare summer ducks include a **Canvasback** and **American Wigeon** at the Salinas River mouth 15 June (DR, DE, WS, NK) a **Common Goldeneye** at Alameda 12 July (DR, LF), and an **Oldsquaw** at Bodega Bay

in late July (A&WG). The **Harlequin Ducks** at Ano Nuevo are apparently becomming difficult to find: two on 24 July were the only sighted (JR, *et al*). Shorebirds summered in good numbers, including usually rare ones as Short-billed Dowitchers and Sanderlings. More unusual was a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Palo Alto 17 June and perhaps the first coastal summer **Long-billed Dowitcher** at the Salinas River mouth the same day. All three phalaropes were also present at the latter place and time: including 150 **Reds** and ten **Northerns** (all by DE, DR, WS, NK). Interesting returning migrants included a **Solitary Sandpiper** south of Big Sur 24 June (JM)— very rare on the coast— and four **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Pescadero 24-26 July (PM, BF *et al*) with another on the Chico sewage ponds 31 July (BR).

Increasingly better observation is turning up the outstanding and tough-to-identify **Semipalmated Sandpiper;** more often in southern California but even here— especially when the Western Sandpipers are still retaining breeding plumage. Single birds were at Abbott's Lagoon 16-17 June (GP, LS, DS - a spring migrant) and reported from Pescadero 27 July (BMcC - a fall migrant). Abbott's Lagoon also produced an unexpected **Franklin's Gull** in late June (GP, LS). At least 35 **Least Tern** nests were discovered in three separate localities in the Bay Area— most encouraging for this endangered race (LF, DR *et al*). A **South Polar Skua** highlighted a boat trip on Monterey Bay 25 July (TC), yet they are to be expected irregularly by late July.

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo,** almost never found as a migrant in our area, was at the Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes 19 June (JH, KY). Up to three Cuckoos were being seen by GGAS members at Woodson Bridge State Rec. Area near Corning (FB *et al*); a careful survey of the entire northern Sacramento Valley produced 42 individuals in 1973 (*Western Birds*, Vol. 5, No. 3, p.70). The pair of **Chimney Swifts** returned to their chimney in Ft. Bragg where last year they established the first California breeding record (LH).

As previously mentioned, Pt Reyes experienced a vagrant wave in late June. The results: a **Red-eyed Vireo** at Mendoza 18-19 June (JM, NK, DE, DR), a **Northern Parula** at the Fish Dock 19 June (CC, JM), a **Cape May Warbler** at the Fish Docks 17-18 June (JM, JL *et al*), two more **Bay-breasts**— Fish Docks 17-19 June and Mendoza 19 June (CH), an **Ovenbird** at the Fish Docks 17-18 June (JM *et al*), a **Northern Waterthrush** there 18 June (JM *et al*), and **American Redstarts** at the RCA station 18 June (DE, NK *et al*) and Mendoza 19 June (CC). Although the wealth was a surprise, the wave could have been predicted from previous Farallon research. But what does one say about the number of summering Eastern-type warblers? The earlier ones could be late spring migrants, but their location— in the interior foothills, argues against it. The records: two **Black-and-whites**— 18 July-1 August in Tilden Park (KY, AG, BO) and 5 August in Chabot Reg. Park (GM, JM); two **Northern Parulas**— 6 July in Chabot (DE) and another at Crystal Springs Res. in mid-July

(PM); and three **American Redstarts**— 6-9 July in Chabot (DE, TS), a female in Tilden 18 July (KY) and a male there 21-30 July (JM *et al*). And not only warblers put in summer appearances but also **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**— total of three: Glen Ellen 19 July (DC), and different Tilden birds 26 June (JM) and 27 June (MC)— and **Indigo Buntings:** the singing male all summer on the Limantour road (mob) and a singing male in Tilden 23-24 July. On a more sedate final note, **Grasshopper Sparrows** were more widespread than usual, including singles at Abbott's Lagoon and the Fish Docks 17-18 June (JM *et al*).

Corriengia: The July-August *Gull* had two mistakes that should be corrected. First, the **Yellow-billed Loon** apparently was not in breeding plumage as reported. Second, a line of type is missing in the warbler section and it should have read: The **Magnolia Warbler** was 6 June at Nunes (JM), while it was a male **Cape May** at Drake's Beach 6-8 June (SFB, JM, SL *et al*) that was only California's 15th spring record.

Observers: Florence Bennett, Chris Carpenter, Mary Carriger, Ted Chandik, Dale Clyde, Dick Erickson, Leora Feeney, Bud Fry, Albert & Wilma Ghiorso, Craig Hohenberger, Linda Hollenbach, Joel Hornstein, Nils Kjellen, Ned Lewis, John Luther, Brian McCaffery, George Mealy, Peter Metropulos, Joe Morlan, Bob O'brien, Gary Page, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Roberson, Tom Schulenberg, Dave Shuford, Lynne Stenzel, Wally Sumner, Naomi Svenningsen, Keiko Yamane, many observers (mob).

DON ROBERSON, *Observations Editor,*
2244 Encinal #5, Alameda, CA 9450 (865-2462)

Field Trips Calendar

Sunday, September 5 — Southbay marshes and dikes on foot for shorebirds. See July/August *GULL* for details. Leader: Eric Caine (763-0293)

Wednesday, September 8 — Mini-walk to **Alameda South Shore.** Meet at **10 a.m.** at Lincoln Park, High Street and Santa Clara Avenue in Alameda (AC Transit 51 and 58). Lunch optional. Leader: Leora Feeney (any questions call Ruth Voss at 525-8032).

Saturday/Sunday, September 11 & 12 — A camping trip to explore the north coast from Fort Ross to Bodega Bay during prime migration time for both shore and land birds. At night, join us at our campfire for a **brainstorming session to plan next season's backpacking and camping trips.** Members and field trips chairmen of other chapters welcome. We have reserved well-secluded camp sites at **DUNCAN MILLS CAMPGROUND,** nine miles west of Guerneville, on Hwy. 116, for Friday

and Saturday nights. Cost about one dollar per night per person. Ask for Golden Gate Group at the former railroad depot, now the camp office (open til 10 p.m. Friday). IF POSSIBLE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO CAMP. For those who want to join us for a day, meet at **8:30 a.m.** at campground entrance both Saturday and Sunday. If you can offer or need a ride, call the leaders: Chris Coombe and Darrell Hall (655-0706).

Tuesday, September 14 — Tilden Park during the best time for migrants. Walk around Jewel Lake and a bit further, lunch optional. Meet **8:30 a.m.** at the Nature Center parking lot. Leader: Delpha de Timofeev (632-5176).

Saturday, September 18 — Coyote Hills Regional Park. Burrowing Owls, Lesser Yellowlegs, White-tailed Kites are regularly seen at this time of year. Take Nimitz Freeway (Calif. 17) or Dumbarton Bridge (Calif. 84) to Jarvis Ave. in Newark; drive on Jarvis to Newark Blvd. (traffic signal). Turn northwest on Newark to Patterson Ranch Rd. and follow signs to Park. Meet **9 a.m.** at first big parking lot to your left. Leader: Peter Allen (548-4592).

Sunday, September 19 — Shorebird Special. An all-day trip to see how many kinds of shorebirds we can find in western Marin County. We'll start at Bolinas Lagoon - best spot in recent years for variety and rarities, then drive and hike to other good birding spots (Abbott's Lagoon, McClure Beach). Itinerary depends on last minute scouting. Bring portable lunch, telescopes, and knee-high rubber boots, if you have them. Be prepared to walk some distance. Meet at Elwood's restaurant, on Hwy. 1 at north end of **Stinson Beach at 7:30 a.m.** We'll pool cars as much as possible, but it's even better to share rides all the way from home. Leaders: Nick Story (527-0210), Gary Page and Lynn Stenzel.

Saturday, September 25 — A fast-paced trip on the **Pt. Reyes Peninsula** concentrating on rare migrants and vagrants. To understand what we will be looking for, study fall plumages of eastern warblers in your field guides before the trip. Meet **7 a.m.** in the parking lot *behind* the grocery store in Inverness. Leaders: Dick Erickson (451-0748) and Don Roberson (865-2462).

Sunday, September 26 — A leisurely walk to enjoy the uncrowded areas of **Golden Gate Park** in San Francisco. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at 43rd Avenue and Fulton. Lunch optional. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020).

Saturday, October 2 — Bus trip to the Pt. Reyes Peninsula on one of the best "migrant" weekends on our coast to look for unusual as well as common species of birds. First loading at **7a.m. in Oakland** at Bellvue and Perkins near Rotary Science Center at Lake Merritt; second loading at **7:20 a.m. in San Francisco** at Grove and Larkin in front of Civic Auditorium. Make bus reservations with Pat Triggs, 2038

33rd Ave., San Francisco 94116 (664-8502). Send $8.00 and your phone number. Meeting place for cars at Pt. Reyes National Seashore Headquarters in Olema at 9 a.m. Bring scopes. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay.

Sunday, October 3 — An easy morning walk in **Tilden Park** to look for migrants and learn a bit about identification of plants in the fall season. About three miles walking, good for beginners. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at Jewel Lake Nature Center parking lot. Trip ends at noon. Leader: Dick Anderson (841-4934).

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 1976

GENERAL FUND

Cash in Banks, May 31, 1975	13,310.76	
Receipts		
Membership Dues	$26,720.50	
Gifts and Donations (including $716.00 specified Audubon Canyon Ranch)	2,419.54	
Interest Earned on Savings Accounts	357.04	
GULL Subscriptions - Non Members	562.70	
Wildlife Films (1974-75 Series)	127.63	
Chartered Bus Trips	2,332.96	
Pelagic Trips	5,470.00	
Annual Dinner (net)	102.82	
Whittell Challenge Grant Award	1,000.00	
Sales (GGAS Patch)	132.42	
Miscellaneous	153.45	39,379.06
		52,689.82
Expenditures		
Meeting - General and Board	$ 462.92	
GULL - Printing and Mailing	10,266.62	
Field Trips	2,989.99	
Pelagic Trips	4,512.35	
Christmas Bird Count	422.80	
Salary - Office Manager	6,899.40	
Rent	2,095.31	
Telephone	235.19	
Office Supplies and Equipment	509.57	
Postage	814.85	
Reimbursed Expenses - Board and Committees	225.54	
Gifts and Donations (including $1,315.30 Audubon Canyon Ranch)	1,893.80	
Scholarship - Audubon Camp of West	250.00	
Rare Bird Alert	246.51	
Auditing	600.00	

Insurance	304.00	
Payroll Taxes	613.90	
GGAS Patch	897.30	
Transfer to Endowment Fund	5,200.00	
Miscellaneous	341.06	39,781.11
Cash in Banks, May 31, 1976		$12,908.71

LIFE MEMBERSHIP RESERVE

Cash in Bank, May 31, 1975	$ 1,600.00
Receipts	
Mr. Richard Cummings	100.00
Cash in Bank, May 31, 1976	$ 1,700.00

ENDOWMENT FUND

Cash in Bank, May 31, 1975		$12,086.58
Income		
Transfer from General Fund (including Interest to closing)	$ 5,253.13	
Accrued interest	988.10	6,241.23
Cash in Bank, May 31, 1976		$18,327.81

—ROBERT C. JOHNSEN, *Treasurer*
Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Commentary:

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 1976

For the second successive fiscal year, the Society's receipts exceeded expenditures. The surplus of close to $4,800 will be used to support this year's activities and to strengthen the Society's net worth. Financial highlights of the fiscal year ended May 31, 1976 included:

1. Membership dues returned from the National Audubon Society rose almost $2,300 or 9.4%. They had risen 16.1% the previous year, which brought us a $1,000 Whittell Challenge grant award for leading all chapters in the nation in new memberships.
2. The Society doubled its expenditures on self-supporting field and pelagic trips, to $7,803, over last year.
3. Gifts and donations to the Society that were unspecified as to use more than doubled, to $1,469 from $606 the previous year.

—BARRY SPITZ, *Chairman Financial Committee*

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach 94970.

Telephone 383-1644.

Wildlife Sanctuary and Nature Education Center under joint sponsorship of Marin, Golden Gate, and Sequoia Audubon Societies. Ed P. McElhany, Chairman.

The Ranch is open to the public without charge through July 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Schools and other groups interested in guided visits to the Ranch on weekdays may make arrangements by calling Edris Cole at 383-1644 for appointments. The Ranch is closed on Mondays.

News from the Ranch

Golden Gate Audubon Society has made an $800 gift to the ranch in memory of Leonard Machlis, the late husband of Gertrude Machlis, past president of GGAS.

The contribution will be used to add to the ranch's collection of books on ornithology, botany, natural histry and the environment.

Most of the books will be associated with the laboratory which is to be built in the new education center in Volunteer Canyon. Audubon members are asked to contribute to the Leonard Machlis Library Fund or to donate books to the library.

Over the summer the ranch received generous gifts from the following: the Corte Madera Women's Club, Northbrae Women's Club, California Alpine Club and the Tamalpais Conservation Club. Thanks to them!

The ranch is also grateful to the late Helen Dickie of GGAS for remembering the ranch in her will. All bequests and memorials go into the Endowment Fund which is being built up to free the ranch from the chance success of annual appeals. The ranch hopes that members of the Audubon branches will donate what they can to this fund.

Finally, the ranch thanks the Eldorado Foundation for its gift to the Education Center in Volunteer Canyon and for the gift of $1,000 from Marin Audubon for the benefit of the Endowment Fund.

Gifts and Bequests

FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

In Honor of:

MISS MARJORIE GUNN ..... Anne Nylund
ERIC AND LAUREL REYNOLDS ..... Albert and Wilma Ghiorso
MISS GERTRUDE WEILER ..... Virginia P. Whipple

MARIE E. EHRHARDT

A perpetual library fund will be established at Audubon Canyon Ranch as a memorial for MARIE E. EHRHARDT by her family: Mille and Raymond Ehrhardt, Esther Meskis, Nancy and Bill Tucker, Linda Dillon and Bob Odland and Ruth Voss. Mrs. Ehrhardt's endearing spirit was a constant inspiration to those around her, even in the less active period of her 101 years. This is a most fitting memorial to one who had retained a keen interest in young people and education since her college years in the 1880's and her subsequent career as a teacher and as a community leader.

FOR GGAS

In Memory of:

MRS. LEOF ELIZABETH KUNSMAN ..... Jack and Caroline Service
General Gift ..... Dr. and Mrs. Loren P. Meissner

In Memory of:

MRS. MARGARET PETERSON ..... Paul and Marian Covel
Mrs. R. A. Freeman
Friends at the Environmental Protection Agency Region IX
George and Rita Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Syvertsen
Betty M. Vinther

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or if unspecified, at the discretion of the Board. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is co-sponsor. Please send your gifts in the form, of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Mrs. Irving Taylor, Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *THE GULL*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society, by the Corresponding Secretary. All gifts are tax deductible.

Scholarship to Audubon Workshop of the West

A scholarship is available from the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., for the Audubon Workshop of the West for one two-week session in 1977. The workshop has sessions from mid-June to mid-August. Applications may be obtained at the Golden Gate office, 2718 Telegraph Ave., Suite 206, Berkeley. Or for more information, telephone 843-2222.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
Office: 843-2222
2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206
Berkeley, California 94705

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office
2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. It will be forwarded.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national $15 per year (individual); $18 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks (no cash) payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately $3 per year; single issues 30¢. High school and college student membership $8.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, $12.00; senior citizen family, $15.00.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon Society in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.